

# ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE



March 2014 - Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, St. Joseph, MO

## Wing gets new commander and command chief

The 139th Airlift Wing held a change of command ceremony here Jan. 5 for its newest commander, Col. Ralph L. Schwader.

Schwader, a St. Joseph native and an experienced C-130 pilot, who has served as the wings vice commander since 2011, succeeds Col. Mike Pankau who retired with nearly 30 years of military service this year.

Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard, announced in October Col. Schwader will assume command of the Wing.

"I'm very pleased to have an officer with Col. Schwader's proven track record of character and experience at the helm of the 139th," Danner said.

"I am very proud to be part of the 139th Airlift Wing and look forward to leading this team of combat-tested men and women veterans into the future," said Schwader.



Col. Ralph Schwader, (right) salutes the Missouri Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Danner, after receiving command of the 139th Airlift Wing on January 5, 2014 at Rosecrans Air National Guard base in Saint Joseph, Mo. (Photo by Senior Airman Sheldon Thompson)

Chief Master Sgt. Randy Miller assumed authority over the 139th Airlift Wing's enlisted force Feb. 8, 2014, during a ceremony signaling his selection to the position of command chief master sergeant.

Col. Ralph Schwader, commander of the 139th Airlift Wing, officiated the ceremony, and Miller's daughter, Shaylin Miller, sang the national anthem.

Miller called for personal accountability as his primary message to the Wing.

"You need to know when your next promotion is coming, so you are never caught off guard and there are no excuses," said Miller. A native of Mound City, Mo., Miller enlisted in 1984 and has deployed three times during his career including Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.



Airmen recite the Airmen's Creed during Chief Master Sgt. Randy Miller's assumption of authority to the rank of command chief master sergeant. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Theodore Ramsey)

## Commander's Letter

The men and women of the 139th Airlift Wing never cease to amaze me, this year, as always, they have proved the 139th is - Always Ready, Ever Willing. As you reflect and enjoy stories of our 2013 accomplishments, I ask you to look towards our future.

The President's Budget projects about \$115 billion more than sequestration level caps over the next five years, which under current law will return in FY2016 and continue through FY2021.

<sup>1</sup> While fiscal uncertainty is all around, I remind you what we have to offer. The guard is highly trained with years of experience, has the same requirements to remain fully qualified as active duty, and can do it at a fraction of the cost to the taxpayer.

As we plan for the future both strategically and fiscally, I am focused on three main goals for the 139<sup>th</sup>.

First, acquire C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. This initiative will require no new military construction at the 139<sup>th</sup> AW. We have the ramp space for 16 C-130J's and maintenance facilities will require no modifications. Without newer C-130J aircraft, or upgrades to our current C-130H fleet, we will be restricted from flying in European airspace in six years.

Second, acquire a C-130H simulator. Having the simulator will equate to a five million dollar annual savings to the taxpayer. The 139<sup>th</sup> AW currently has twice the number of pilots who need to maintain qualification since we are the home of the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC). Preforming simulated flying operations to maintain qualification for our Airman means less money in fuel, maintenance and personnel cost. The simulator will also allow the

AATTC to develop, test and implement tactics to teach to DoD aircrews and a host of international students without traveling to another simulator site.

Third, expand our active duty and Air Force Reserve partnership. An associate flying squadron will allow for better utilization of aircraft, facilities, personnel, and add additional 80-200 full time Airman to the wing. In addition to the total force integration currently at the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center, the expansion of the Center's courseware to include the C-130 Weapons Instructor Course will bring additional 30 full time instructors to the local St. Joseph community. This will increase the number of pilots who would benefit from a simulator located in St. Joseph, Mo.

The National Guard understands the fiscal challenges facing the nation and the Department of Defense and intends to be part of the solution<sup>2</sup>. As Missouri's Senator Roy Blunt said, "We believe the National Guard can be part of a cost effective security solution that retains affordable security for peacetime as well as the ability to respond to unforeseen future contingencies."

**Col. Ralph L. Schwader**  
Commander, 139th Airlift Wing

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PB2015 Budget Preview  
PAG NGB-PA



**A Danish Royal Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defense Force C-130 cargo aircraft sit on the airport at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, Mo., Dec. 3, 2013. Airmen from the allied nations were attending courses at the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Crane)**





Staff Sgt. Trent Otto, a firefighter with the Rosecrans Fire Department, demonstrates equipment that would be used in a chemical environment during Task Qualification Training (TQT) at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Senior Airman Sheldon Thompson)

## Wing stands up new Inspector General team

The 139th Airlift Wing, Missouri Air National Guard, recently stood up a new Inspector General team for a new inspection system. Maj. Eric Rawlings, who is the officer in charge of the five person team, says they will focus more on being inspection ready rather than preparing for an inspection.

"The goal is to be mission capable at any point in time," said Rawlings.

Instead of having multiple inspections at different times now everything is combined into a weeklong event called a unit effectiveness inspection, or UEI, scheduled for the beginning of October in 2014.

The team includes Maj. Mark Ruehter, who will lead the actual inspections, Maj. Tracy Beatie, who will run the questions and complaints, Senior Master Sgt. Rodney McIntosh, and Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Pflugradt, the Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) manager.

The concept of the new wing inspection team, managed at the wing level, will be to take the subject matter experts out of the units and have them provide the outside eyes and subject knowledge to inspect for effectiveness of that

particular unit they come from, said Rawlings.

Previous inspections were accomplished by inspectors from Air Mobility Command or a different wing. They would try to provide those outside eyes to inspect a unit for effectiveness without having the solid base understanding of how the unit was made up or what their mission requirements are.

"By having the IG inspection team managed at the wing level you're able to develop inspection processes and procedures to fit those unique mission sets of the wing or any unit on the installation," said Ruehter.

There are two tools of the new inspection system. The commanders inspection program (CCIP) which covers internal inspections, both wing wide programs such as fitness or large scale exercises, and those which cover specific units. The second is the MICT, a self-assessment checklist which comes from the functional area managers at the National Guard Bureau.

"We want everybody in the wing, no matter what rank you are, to be comfortable in working with our team," said Rawlings

A C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft performs a low cost, low altitude airdrop at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Lt. Col. Barbara Denny)



## Operations Group

- 14,700 of 38,700 (38%) total hours flown in last 10 years were combat flight hours.
- In November 2010, the wing set monthly airdrop tonnage record with over 2,000,000 lbs of combat airdropped supplies in Afghanistan.
- 75% of pilots assigned to the wing are also veteran airline pilots; this gives a huge experience advantage over active duty counterparts.
- Completed multiple combat and humanitarian deployments throughout the world.

- Average aircrew member in the 139th has over 50 combat missions on average.
- 139th Operations Group was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for Meritorious service. May 2009- June 2011.
- 241st Air Traffic Control Squadron is solely responsible the design of the Iraqi commercial airspace system that is still in use today.
- 241st Air Traffic Control Squadron controls the local airspace for unlimited training options.
- Drop zone and short field landing operations are available on site, other units must travel long distances to complete this training.

## Mission Support Group

- Added a Fatality Search and Rescue Recovery team as a new mission in 2013.
- Constructed new state of the art firefighting facility at Rosecrans ANGB. It provides fire protection services to the airport as well as the local area.
- Deployments: Security Forces (Afghanistan), Logistics Readiness (Coronet Oak, Honduras and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) Civil Engineers (Guantanamo Bay Cuba)
- Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby Colorado Wounded Warrior construction project for the YMCA.



Airmen from the 139th Security Forces Squadron participate in a training exercise involving airdrop support by a C-130 Hercules aircraft at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Crane)



## Maintenance Group

- Capability to replace C-130 engine parts to reduce operating and maintenance costs.
- Regional repair facility for other C-130 aircraft.
- Integrates to bring innovative technological advancements to modify aircraft with defensive systems and crew communication and guidance systems.

## Medical Group

- Provides over 1100 fly, non-fly & occupational health physicals to Active Duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members.
- Provides Homeland Response Force (HRF) capabilities including: Public Health, Triage, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear, as well as a certified patient decontamination team.
- HRF provides a quick response force for natural disasters and mass casualty treatment scenarios.



Airmen from 139th Medical Group simulate patient treatment during an exercise at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shannon Bond)

## Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center



- Provides training to U.S. military and 19 Allied nations.
- Provides 6 advanced training courses in aircrew flying and electronic warfare.
- Develops advanced tactics and procedures for mobility aircraft in an extremely timely manner to field the products to the warfighter when a need arises.
- Provides tactics and electronic warfare expertise to aircraft combat systems developers, ensuring maximum survivability of aircrews.
- Projected to assume mission of Air Reserve Component Weapons Instructor Course (WIC) to produce expert weapons officers for the C-130.

## Community Support

This support has resulted in the base exceeding its recruiting goals five of the last six years. The 2010 airshow had an attendance of 60,000 from a community of 75,000 people. Patriotism abounds in this city, and it will support the military and its members any way possible.

**"When St. Joseph needs help,  
we don't call 911, we call 139."**

- Mayor Bill Falkner

## Economic Impact

The economic impact of money originating at Rosecrans for construction, salaries, training, and a great number of things flows throughout the local and state economy. This "multiplier effect" comes as those who receive that money initially then spend it themselves and so on. This means the 139th Airlift Wing and its associated operations are one of the largest contributors to the surrounding Northwest Missouri economy. Construction on the taxiway and a new firehouse have brought many contracting jobs to Rosecrans.

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